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Thursday, April 12, 2012



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**"I love the smell of
testosterone
in the morning."**

Q104

Inhale...



MOOSEHEADS LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

A linesman tries to break up a tussle between Halifax Mooseheads and Quebec Remparts players at the end of Halifax's 2-1 victory at the Metro Centre on Wednesday night. Quebec still leads the series 3-1 with Game 5 at the Metro Centre on Friday night. Story, page 33. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Prepared for strike

Impasse. Capital Health says waiting lists would grow exponentially every day during work stoppage

"We don't feel we could endure, with emergency staffing, a very long strike," said Barbara Hall, vice-president of person-centred health, adding an outbreak or massive trauma would make it even more difficult.

"It's going to be tough," she said.

During a strike, Capital Health says 104 surgeries would be postponed a day at the QEII, and those cases would be added to the current wait list of 9,000 names.

Some unionized professions are more vital in the short term than others, said David Kirkpatrick, chief of surgery.

"There are some individuals in that group that will bring this institution to its knees faster than others," he said, giving sterile processing technicians as an example.

While trying to handle everything themselves, moving patients to other health districts or provinces could be an option.

Patients would most likely travel by plane, helicopter or in some cases by ambulance.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

A strike at Capital Health couldn't last long — the system would buckle in mere days, according to administrators.

Nova Scotia Government Employees Union Local 42 is now two weeks away from going on strike. The conciliator has filed a report and the 3,700 members of the union, including licensed practical nurses, operating-room technicians and medical-lab technicians, could be walking the picket line by April 25.

But a previously negotiated emergency staffing-levels agreement means 27 per cent of the employees would still work during a strike, including 100 per cent staffing levels in the biggest emergency rooms in the district.

Three Capital Health managers met with the media Wednesday to go over the plan for a possible strike.

Union responds, page 3

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Fraud

Guilty plea for ex-Tory minister

A former Tory cabinet minister is slated to plead guilty to fraud and breach of trust inside a provincial courtroom on Thursday morning.

Richard Hurlburt, one of four politicians charged in the MLA expense scandal, is due in Yarmouth provincial court at 9:30 a.m. When the case was last before the courts on Feb. 23, Hurlburt's lawyer Stan MacDonald told reporters outside a Halifax provincial courtroom that his client would be pleading guilty and that he wanted to do it in the area he formerly represented.

"He will face the court and tell the court he is responsible, and he'll face the people of Yarmouth and he'll tell them as well that he's responsible," MacDonald said then of the next court date on April 12.

In exchange for Thursday's expected guilty pleas, three charges of uttering forged documents are to be dropped.

Thursday will mark the first time Hurlburt will appear in court since being charged almost two years ago.

Another former politician, Liberal Dave Wilson, has pleaded guilty to uttering forged documents and one count each of fraud and breach of trust. He is being sentenced on April 19 in Sydney.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Richard Hurlburt
RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



Health-care workers hold an information rally outside the Halifax Infirmary last week. Members of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union Local 42 could be on the picket line in two weeks. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Union confident of Capital Health deal

Labour negotiations.
Still no talks planned between two sides



JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Nova Scotia Government Employees Union president Joan Jessome thinks it's ironic Capital Health is saying it would only last days without most of Local 42.

"Because the argument we're making with the employer is the Local 42 members are as important to the health-care system as RNs and doctors," she said in a response to a Wednesday's press conference where Cap-

During a strike

- Urgent-outpatient clinics for dialysis, chemotherapy and radiation therapy continue.
- Reduced clinical pharmacy services.
- Emergency admissions only in Mental Health.
- Emergency cases only for im-
- aging like MRI, ultrasound, CT, etc.
- Medical lab testing only for acute patients, and blood collection only for people with immediate needs.
- Emergency case capacity at the QEII will be 21-38 a day.

ital Health said its system would buckle in just days if a strike lasted long.

The union is looking for the same 5.1 per cent raise given to registered nurses. They were offered one per cent a year for the next three years. Capital Health

has said they can't afford more.

Plus Jessome said the emergency services plan was negotiated by both sides so she finds it hard to believe they couldn't manage more than a few days.

Both sides say they want

to avert a strike, but no talks are planned. Jessome said they've committed to bringing another offer to the employer and there would be another vote before a strike.

But Capital Health isn't the only one preparing for the worst.

"We have a strike headquarters by the hospital we're moving into over the next couple of days," she said. "We had a training session for 35 picket captains (Tuesday night) and we've got another 35 to train."

But there is hope, Jessome said, and a lot could happen to stop a strike cold, like legislation, renewed negotiations and public outcry.

"This isn't over, it's just beginning."



NEWS

On the web

A whale of a birth

A baby beluga is coming to Georgia Aquarium. The world's largest aquarium has a rare beluga-whale pregnancy, the first mammal to conceive at the downtown Atlanta attraction since it opened in 2005. Watch the video at metronews.ca

Science or sci-fi?

Fact or fiction? Could you blow up the Death Star? Or teleport, like in Star Trek? Those and other myths explained, as scientists discuss fact versus science fiction. More at metronews.ca

Mobile news



Global warming just got even less sexy. Scientists are blaming global warming for higher levels of carbon dioxide in the Pacific that are damaging oyster reproduction. Scan the code for the story.



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Arbitration. Legislation preceded consultations, documents show

Legislation for first contract arbitration was substantially complete a month before Labour Minister Marilyn More asked for feedback from businesses on the contentious issue, new documents show.

Documents obtained by a coalition of business groups under the Freedom of Information Act show More submitted a request for the controversial legislation in July 2010 — a year before the province's Labour Management Review Committee requested "meaningful consultations" on the issue.

Draft legislation — similar to the final version of Bill 102 — was submitted to the NDP cabinet a month before More held a "study day" for business and labour groups last September.

"All the time and resources and money we spent (on first contract consultations) was all for naught," said Leanne Hachey of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. "It seemed like it was clear government knew what it wanted to do ... long before stakeholders were brought into the process."

First contract arbitration allows a newly certified union or their employers to seek third-party arbitration



Marilyn More
Ryan Taplin/Metro

in the event of a breakdown in their first contract negotiations. The NDP passed the legislation in December, to the chagrin of the business lobby.

But Kevin Finch, a spokesman for the department of labour, said critics and opponents of Bill 102 had ample time in the legislature's law amendments committee to voice their concerns.

"It is normal for proposed legislation to come before the (cabinet) for direction. This was the case with Bill 102," Finch wrote in an email.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

Job cuts. Province puts halt to school board's plan to lay off librarians

The province's education minister ordered a school board Wednesday to halt its plans to lay off all of its librarians, a day after the premier said the job cuts were an attempt by the board to embarrass his government.

Ramona Jennex said Wednesday that she was putting the cuts at the Chignecto-Regional School Board on hold pending a review by the government.

In a statement read in the legislature, Jennex said she wrote a letter to the board telling them not to finalize their budget cuts.

"These decisions are unacceptable," said Jennex, adding the government wants to ensure that any reductions that are made are in the best interests of students.

The Chignecto-Central board announced last week that it would cut 41 librarian positions as it deals with a \$6.5-million funding shortfall.

The move drew the ire of Premier Darrell Dexter, who accused the board Tuesday of "playing games" and try-

Reaction

- **Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil** said the government's order to halt the layoffs was a desperate attempt to "change the channel."

ing to embarrass the government.

Dexter said the government's decision Wednesday to halt the cuts is meant to help the board with its "budgeting problem." He said a budget officer from the Education Department would examine the board's books and report back with recommendations.

Chignecto-Central board chairwoman Trudy Thompson said the government's move came just hours before the board was to announce its staffing cuts at a public meeting.

"These are not decisions the board wanted to make but we have to bring in a balanced budget," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



HMCS Windsor, one of Canada's four Victoria-class submarines, is returned to the waters of Halifax harbour after a five-year refit in Halifax on Wednesday.
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

HMCS Windsor lowered into Halifax harbour

Refit to continue. First time in water for sub since 2007

One of Canada's four problem-plagued submarines was slowly lowered into Halifax harbour on Wednesday, more than three years after a refit was due to be completed.

HMCS Windsor began the three-hour process of re-entering the water just before 9 a.m. local time in a berth lined with 46 winches that connected to a submerged wooden

platform.

Dozens of workers stood on a Halifax dock to watch the hulking black sub as it was lowered at about half-a-metre per minute.

It was to move to a neighbouring berth to undergo further testing and preparations for sea trials, but it's not clear when those trials will happen.

"The submarine will only go on the other side and ... the refit will continue," said Roger Barakett, who oversees fleet safety and the lowering procedure.

"Some of the work requires salt water to be carried out so

Expansion

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said this week the Royal Canadian Navy is also expanding the number of submariners it has to 330 from 278 in the coming months.

- **Three of the vessels** are scheduled to be in the water by 2013.

that's what's going to go on when she's in the water."

Initially scheduled to be

completed by 2009, Windsor's refit has taken almost five years and the sub hasn't been in the water since 2007. It has operated at sea for 332 days since arriving in Nova Scotia in October 2001.

Windsor is one of four British submarines bought by the federal government in 1998 for \$750 million, but the fleet has seen little time in active service since then.

HMCS Victoria, based on the West Coast, was the first submarine to complete the refit and successfully test-fired torpedoes last month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New loan program for social enterprises

Opening or operating a business is tough enough, but mixing in a charitable aspect jumps the cost even more.

Dave Rideout is CEO of MetroWorks, which operates Stone Hearth Bistro and bakery. That particular operation is two-thirds bigger than it should be in order to train people and give them skills to find a job.

He said he'll be first in line to apply for a social enterprise loan announced by the province — in his restaurant

— Wednesday.

"Accessing capital has always been a problem," Rideout said. "We're certainly going to be looking at it.... Anywhere we can get money from we're always looking at that."

The 900-plus social enterprises in the province — including daycares, recycling depots and transportation providers for seniors — can now apply for a loan up to \$150,000 guaranteed by the province. The province is

providing a \$2-million loan guarantee for the two-year pilot program, which will be offered through Nova Scotia Credit Unions.

Percy Paris, minister of economic and rural development and tourism, said the province will also be spending \$200,000 for training and marketing for this program.

He said it's the first step to the social enterprise strategy that is now being crafted and will be released soon.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO



Percy Paris
RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

GET CASH BACK ON EVERYDAY PURCHASES

SINGLE PARENT WITH KIDS



Maureen, 42, is a single mom living in Halifax with her two children, Sandra, 8, and Billy, 12. She rents a three-bedroom apartment close to the Public Gardens and not far from the medical centre where she works as office manager. Her kids can walk to school, and although she has a car — she uses it for her weekly grocery shopping and for

driving the kids to practices — Maureen takes public transportation to work. She's always watched her money and looks for good value from every dollar she spends.

Maureen has an annual household income of \$45,000. Some months she lives pay cheque to pay cheque but "I have a budget, and I stick to it. Along with all the monthly expenses, I'm saving for the kids' education, and every summer we travel west to visit family in Winnipeg."

She uses her *Scotia Momentum*® VISA Card to pay for a lot of the everyday purchases she makes such as gas, groceries and drugstore purchases.

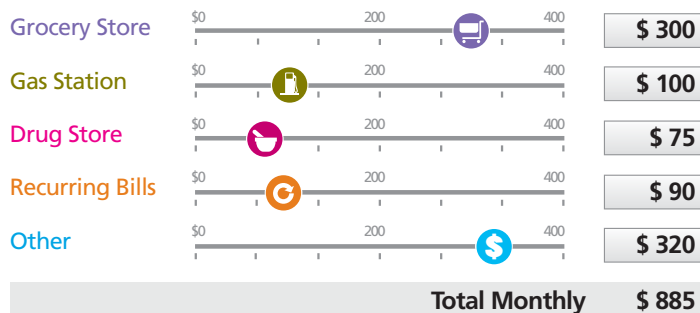
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"It makes sense for me to use the card because I get cash back on gas, groceries and other things that I have to buy anyway," says Maureen. At the same time, she likes to have the credit card as a safety net and tries to pay the balance every month.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

Maureen's profile:

Maureen uses her *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card to pay for about \$885 worth of purchases a month. Some fixed costs, such as rent, are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.



Maureen's Estimated Annual *Scotia Momentum*® Cash Back

Maureen has a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card (the card below on the left). Here's a look at the cash back her monthly purchases add up to with her card — and a comparison with what her cash back would add up to if she had the *Scotia Momentum*® No-Fee VISA card (the card on the right).

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Federal cash flow needed for sewage upgrade: Mayor

Lack of funding. Kelly wants government to help pay for mandated billion-dollar project

JON
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Mayor Peter Kelly wants the federal government to commit to helping the city pay for a mandated billion-dollar sewer upgrade.

Under new federal and provincial standards, all combined sewer and sanitary-sewer overflow systems will have to reach a higher standard. Kelly said a lack of clar-

ity about those standards and a lack of federal and provincial commitments to helping fund the upgrades means HRM could face a massive bill over the next 30 years.

"Until we have clarity, we don't know if we have a \$1-billion bill for HRM or a \$2-billion bill," he said. "Across the country, the cost of the new standards is going to be in excess of \$20 billion and there's no funding program in place yet."

Kelly was speaking at the Atlantic Mayors Congress in Halifax on Wednesday. He said that because the federal and provincial governments are making the laws, they should help with the bills.

"It would have been nice

Mandated upgrade

"Across the country, the cost of the new standard is going to be in excess of \$20 billion."

Mayor Peter Kelly

to hear some commentary of a program that would bring some partnerships between the federal government and municipalities," he said after a speech from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Minister Bernard Valcourt.

Speaking to reporters, Valcourt said ACOA's 5.8 per cent budget cut over the next three years will likely not cut into programs, but he would

Atlantic Mayors Congress

- About 30 municipal leaders from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador are in Halifax this week for the Atlantic Mayors Congress. The event wraps up on Friday.

not commit to any specific infrastructure funding for the sewer upgrades.

"There is an infrastructure program in the budget, a two-year program — \$105 million to upkeep, maintain and repair municipal infrastructures," he said.



Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Minister Bernard Valcourt speaks at the Atlantic Mayors Congress on Wednesday. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Woman to be sentenced in shooting



Amanda Greene RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

An Eastern Passage woman guilty of manslaughter in the death of her former boyfriend is scheduled to be sentenced Thursday in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Halifax.

Amanda Greene's sentencing was originally scheduled for last October, but was postponed after her lawyer suffered a heart attack.

The 20-year-old Greene was first charged with first-degree murder in the death of 18-year-old Dillon Blair Jewett but eventually pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of

manslaughter.

Jewett's body was found at a quarry in East Uniacke on Oct. 3, 2010. He was shot in the head.

Kyle Gowen, 23, has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the case and received a life sentence with no possibility of parole for 15 years.

Kyle's younger brother Steven Gowen, 22, pleaded guilty last July and was given three years in prison for an accessory to murder charge.

DREW CASFORD/METRO

Breach of undertaking

Former chief faces new charge

Former Millbrook Chief Lawrence Paul will go through the Adult Diversion restorative-justice program for a charge of breaching an undertaking.

The 77-year-old's lawyer, Jeff Hunt, appeared in Truro provincial court on Wednesday on his behalf and withdrew Paul's not guilty plea.

Crown attorney Paul Drysdale told Judge Richard MacKinnon that the matter was being referred

for restorative justice.

Paul was arrested and charged with marijuana possession following an incident in Truro on Nov. 21.

He was released on a written undertaking to the Truro Police Service, conditions that continue until the matter is dealt with. One of those conditions was in relation to alcohol.

The breach of undertaking charge was from an alleged incident occurring Jan. 7. Federal Crown attorney Stephen Topshee offered no evidence for the marijuana charge and it was dismissed. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

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Delta. Flights from Hali to U.S. coming back

Flights with Delta Air Lines are returning to Halifax.

The American airline has announced they will soon offer flights to three U.S. destinations from Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

The services stopped in the fall as a result of the merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Air Lines.

"They were going through a period of rationalization where they were trying to figure out their schedule," said Jerry Staples, vice-president of marketing, and business development for the Halifax airport. "There were a number of cities they discontinued flying to. Halifax has been victorious in winning Delta service back."

Delta's schedule:

- New York (JFK) May 26 to July 10, seven days a week.
- New York (La Guardia) starting July 11, year-round, twice-daily service.
- Detroit, June 6 to Oct. 31, seven days a week.
- Atlanta, June 30 to Sept. 1, Saturdays.

Staples said Delta's return will mean better connection times for passengers.

DREW CASFORD/FOR METRO

Antigonish County

Crash victim ID'd

Police have identified a 68-year-old woman who died following a crash in Antigonish County.

The RCMP say Tazuko Marie MacKinnon was killed in a single vehicle crash. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Crime

Arrest for cocaine possession

Police say a man and a woman were arrested in Hammonds Plains on Wednesday morning for possession of cocaine for trafficking purposes.

METRO

Lauper, Hanson to play Casino NS this summer



Dancer Jazz Campbell does his Michael Jackson impersonation at Casino Nova Scotia's Harbourfront Lounge. The Casino announced its lineup for the year, which includes a Jackson tribute show. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Summer-fall. Fans of Michael Jackson also have reason to smile as entertainment lineup announced

ANDREW DAVIES

halifax@metronews.ca

Casino Nova Scotia is delivering a diverse array of talent for their summer-fall entertainment season.

Pop star Cyndi Lauper will be performing on July 27 for a standing-room-only show, and less than a month later, all three Hanson brothers are taking the stage for an acoustic concert on Aug. 23.

Another highlight is a Michael Jackson tribute show, set for June 22 and 23, where Bishop Soul will be performing some of the late icon's greatest hits, including Billy Jean.

"What we hope to achieve is a diversity of entertainment that can appeal to many people in the HRM and beyond," said

The lineup:

- **June 22-23.** King of Pop: The Michael Jackson Experience. Tickets, \$30, go on sale April 19.
- **July 12.** Cheap Trick. Tickets, \$65, go on sale April 19.
- **July 27.** Cyndi Lauper. Tickets, \$95, go on sale April 19.
- **August 23.** Hanson. Tickets, \$45 and \$35, go on sale April 19.
- **Nov. 18.** Vicki Lawrence and Mama: A Two Woman Show. Tickets, \$55 and \$45, go on sale April 26.
- **Dec. 31.** Colin James. Tickets, \$65, go on sale April 26.

Amie Moore, the manager of entertainment production for Casino Nova Scotia.



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New ride for Feed Nova Scotia



Feed Nova Scotia executive director Dianne Swinemar, and Purlator's Tom McMemon, show off the new set of wheels. DREW CASFORD/FOR METRO

Fully-loaded. Purlator donates delivery truck

DREW CASFORD
halifax@metronews.ca

Feed Nova Scotia has itself a new set of wheels.

On Wednesday morning, Purlator donated a delivery truck — including a full load of food inside — to the

headquarters of the food bank on the Bedford Highway. The group was assisted by representatives from the Halifax Mooseheads in unloading the truck.

"We've been anticipating this moment for a long time," said Feed Nova Scotia executive director Dianne Swinemar, as she was handed the vehicle's keys.

Feed Nova Scotia helps over 150 food banks, shelters and meal programs through-

out the province. Last year, the food bank distributed over \$14 million worth of food to families.

"One of the things we're constantly doing is looking for resources," said Swinemar. "Whether it's food, money or equipment, it's a big challenge. Our trucks are on the road every day. They get very high mileage and they are very old."

She said the organization has been in search of a new

On the road

"We have trucks on the road six days a week and deliver to some of the shelters and soup kitchens every day."

Dianne Swinemar, Feed Nova Scotia

vehicle for the past few years and considers the donation a wonderful gift.

"Now we can take one of our old vehicles that's beyond repair off the road and replace it with this refurbished vehicle they've given us," she said.

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Halifax Public Gardens. New season is welcomed in as garden gates open



The Public Gardens are shown in this file photo. RYAN TAPLIN

The much-anticipated opening of the Halifax Public Gardens is finally here. On Thursday morning, the Gardens is opening its gates for the new season. Although the winter was seemingly easy, the outdoor space required the work of many hands before opening day.

Bev MacPhail, supervisor horticulturist for the Gardens, told Metro in a recent interview work includes making sure the area is clean and safe for the public. The Gardens, a backyard to many who live in the city, is open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk through to November.

METRO

Cellphone service

Lack of reception a safety concern

Residents in a remote corner of southern Cape Breton are raising safety concerns about the lack of cellphone service in the area.

People from Fourchu and Framboise have presented a petition to Richmond County council.

They say there's no way to communicate when the power goes out.

The council has decided to send letters to various cellular-phone service providers to determine if there's interest in placing a cell tower in the area.

Coun. Gail Johnson says tourists rely on cellphone service when they head to the nearby Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

General contractors

Province seeking tenders to construct correctional facility in northeast

The province is accepting proposals to build the Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facility.

The tender opened Tuesday for the construction phase.

The tender is open to seven pre-qualified general-contracting companies and will close May 7, with construction expected to begin in June.

"It will be exciting to see the structure start to take shape over the coming months," said Justice Minister Ross Landry.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

A red circular logo with a white border. Inside the circle, the word "DARE" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the word "TO" is written in smaller, white capital letters. Below "TO", the word "COMPARE" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom of the circle, the words "SALES EVENT" are written in smaller, white capital letters. Above the word "DARE", the word "KIA" is written in white capital letters inside a small oval.

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Tori Stafford's DNA found on accused's car door: Testimony

Rafferty trial.

Probability the blood found on the car was not eight-year-old victim's is one in 150 trillion, court hears

Blood determined with near certainty to be Victoria Stafford's was found on the door of the car belonging to the man accused of killing her, court heard Wednesday.

A mixture of blood from at least two different people on the rubber moulding of the back passenger side door on Michael Rafferty's car was found to contain DNA matching the eight-year-old girl's profile, court heard. The profile was compiled using her parents' DNA, one of Tori's teeth and a hair from a lice comb, forensic biologist Jennifer McLean testified.

The probability that the female blood on Rafferty's car door was not Tori's, that a randomly selected person would



Michael Rafferty is shown in a police handout released as a court exhibit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

coincidentally share the same DNA profile, is one in 150 trillion, she said.

Results from such a DNA test can either exclude someone as the source of a sample, or find that they cannot be excluded, with varying probabilities that a randomly selected person has the same DNA profile, McLean testified.

Science was the focus Wednesday at Rafferty's trial, where experts from the Centre

of Forensic Sciences testified about testing done on several items seized from Rafferty's home and car following his May 19, 2009, arrest.

Rafferty is alleged to have kidnapped Tori outside her Woodstock, Ont., elementary school on April 8, 2009, with his then-girlfriend Terri-Lynne McClintic, and then driven the Grade 3 student more than 100 kilometres away to a rural area, raped her and killed her.

Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping. McClintic is already serving a life sentence after pleading guilty to first-degree murder.

McClintic testified last month at Rafferty's trial that after she shoved Tori into the back seat of Rafferty's car, he ordered the girl to stay on the floor and covered her with his black pea coat so she wouldn't be seen. A coat matching McClintic's description was found in the house Rafferty shared with his mother, and testing revealed the presence of two blond hairs. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mandatory language tests

Minister of Immigration Jason Kenney delivers a speech to the Economic Club of Canada in Ottawa on March 7. Starting this July, certain people immigrating under the provincial-nominee program will face language testing. Kenney made the announcement in Saskatchewan, which took in more than 5,300 immigrants under the provincial-nominee program in 2010. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alarm bells

Three charged in alleged break-in

Three men are facing charges after an alleged break-in attempt at the Toronto home of an alarm company president.

AlarmForce Industries says Joel Matlin was on vacation in February when a man went to the front door of his house late at night. Matlin's video-equipped alarm system sent him an email with pictures of the man, but a check of the live video feed showed the man had left.

Matlin contacted Toronto police and asked them to check the house and also called his stepson, who went over to stay at the home. The stepson was awakened around 4:30 a.m. to the sound of the alarm system saying "phone line cut" and then heard people trying to kick the door down, but he turned on the lights and scared them away. Matlin's company says the entire incident was caught on video, which was sent to police to help in the investigation.

Police confirm three men were arrested in connection with the attempted break-in at Matlin's house and also have been charged in several break-and-enters in the Toronto area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberals call for MacKay's firing after F-35 fiasco



Defence Minister Peter MacKay addresses the audience at a news conference in Halifax on Tuesday. MacKay announced increased funding to long-term disability benefits for ill and injured veterans. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The calls for Defence Minister Peter MacKay to be fired over the auditor general's scathing report on F-35 fighter jets have become louder and nastier.

The opposition Liberals say MacKay doesn't know his file and pointed to a flub yesterday in Halifax where the minister referenced the wrong statistical table in trying to make his case over the conflicting numbers associated with last week's bombshell audit.

Liberal House Leader Marc Garneau says MacKay is either incompetent or "not too bright."

The personal attack followed claims that the Conservative government lied over the cost of the multi-billion-dollar program by not including roughly \$10 billion in regular,

ongoing operational expenses.

The Defence Department was accused of hiding the truth by Auditor General Michael Ferguson, who says — had operational costs been included — the real cost of the F-35 program would be more like \$24.7 billion, instead of the reported \$14.7 billion.

The inclusion of ongoing operational expenses is a long-standing disagreement between the military and the auditor, dating back a decade to when the Liberals had to defend their expenses and the use of Challenger jets.

But the Conservatives point out that when the Liberals were in power none of their defence announcements included such mundane expenses. Indeed, the Liberals went to great lengths to

keep such figures out of the debate over the use of Defence Department Challenger jets when former auditor general Sheila Fraser blasted their use in 2003. NDP defence critic David Christopherson said federal Treasury Board guidelines stipulate that such figures should be spelled out for public consumption.

"It's not that the \$24.7 billion dollar figure was wrong. It was that (the Tories) didn't want that number out there because then they would have to defend it," said Christopherson.

Internal Defence documents show the Conservatives plan to spend just over \$51.4 billion on capital purchases between now and 2028 on everything from new fighter jets and navy destroyers to trucks and tanks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Souvenirs for Canada

Chretien exhibit to feature gifts from heads of state

Former prime minister Jean Chretien will be unveiling souvenirs from his official travels at an exhibition in his hometown.

A museum in Shawinigan, Que., will showcase the gifts

Chretien received from various heads of state and other officials while he was prime minister. He is thought to have accumulated between 4,000 and 5,000 items during his 10-year spell, which ended in 2003.

The exhibition, dubbed "Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Museum: Canada's Place in the World," will open to the public on June 16 and run until Sept. 30.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Emergency landing

Bomb search conducted on grounded plane

Authorities were conducting a thorough inspection of a Korean Air flight Wednesday that made an emergency landing at a Vancouver Island military base after a bomb threat was phoned

into the airline, the second such scare in two days.

The Boeing 777 was carrying 149 passengers from Vancouver to Seoul on Tuesday afternoon when the airline turned its craft around shortly after takeoff under escort of two U.S. fighter jets. The RCMP, which is leading the investigation, said early Wednesday nothing suspicious had yet been found.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court ruling

Negligence led to brain damage: Court

An experienced obstetrician whose unwarranted forceps intervention during labour led to the birth of a child with catastrophic brain injuries was indeed negligent, Ontario's top court ruled Wednesday. In upholding a lower-court

ruling and damages award, the Ontario Court of Appeal agreed Dr. Peter Potts fell below the required standard of care in delivering Matthew MacGregor 13 years ago. In 1999, Laura MacGregor was in labour with her second child at the Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, Ont., when Potts attempted a forceps delivery even though, the trial judge found, there was no compelling need to do so. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Passengers wait outside Terminal 3 as the doors are manned by security to prevent overcrowding inside the terminal at Heathrow Airport in London in this 2010 file photo. British lawmakers warn that long lines at immigration could force planes to sit on runways. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Heathrow's coping skills up in the air

London summer Olympics 2012. Report says long lines could force planes to circle the airport if it's already at capacity

British lawmakers have questioned Heathrow Airport's ability to cope with an influx of passengers during the London Olympics this summer, warning that long lines at immigration could force planes to sit on runways or even circle Europe's busiest airport.

The concerns were expressed in a letter to Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt from the chairman of House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport committee, John Whittingdale. It was published Wednesday.

Whittingdale wrote that lawmakers had met with Heathrow operator BAA on

its preparations for Olympic games and "did not leave the briefing confident" that Heathrow was ready to cope with huge numbers of arrivals around the Olympics in a "timely fashion."

The games run from July 27 to Aug. 12.

"We understand that significant preparations have been made to accommodate unusual sporting equipment, special lanes for the Olympic family, welcoming arrangements for competitors and additional Olympic ambassadors," Whittingdale wrote.

"However, far less thought seems to have been given to the issue of how to deal with long queues at immigration."

Whittingdale said those lines could push terminals over capacity, forcing planes to circle in the air, sit on runways or block gates if they can't unload their passengers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WADA urged to impose 4-year bans

Britain's Olympic body has urged the World Anti-Doping Agency to introduce mandatory four-year bans for drug cheats as a minimum.

The current WADA code has a provision for four-year bans, but few federations opt to impose sanctions beyond the standard two years.

The British Olympic Association has submitted its proposed changes to WADA for the revision of the code which sets out drug-testing rules and sanctions.

The BOA says in its submission that "athletes globally are calling for tougher sanctions to rid sport of those that choose to cheat." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What Must Be Said. German poet compares Israel's travel ban to dictatorship's action

Guenther Grass says Israel's decision to bar him from visiting the country following his What Must Be Said poem criticizing the Jewish state reminds him of similar steps that dictatorial

governments have taken against him.

The German literature Nobel laureate said in a reaction piece published by German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung on Wednesday that

he has previously only been barred from entering a nation by then Communist-ruled East Germany and the military junta in Myanmar about 25 years ago.

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Miner Javier Tapia, wearing sunglasses, is helped out of a mine in Yauca del Rosario, Peru, Wednesday. JOB ROSALES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peruvians rescued from copper mine

Six-day ordeal.

Nine miners walk out of abandoned mine through a reinforced tunnel built by rescuers

Nine Peruvian miners were rescued Wednesday after six days of being trapped in an abandoned copper mine.

The nine, ranging in age from 23 to 58, walked out without assistance about an hour after dawn from a reinforced tunnel that rescuers had built

as they removed more than eight metres of dirt and rock.

The miners wore sunglasses and were covered with blankets.

President Ollanta Humala greeted them.

Humala had spent the night at the mine 240 kilometres

southeast of Lima.

The miners were trapped by a cave-in triggered by an explosion they had set.

The miners had communicated with rescuers through a hose, in place before the collapse, by which they also received food. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Myanmar. Suu Kyi meets president ahead of her entry into parliament

The architects of political reconciliation in Myanmar, President Thein Sein and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, met Wednesday ahead of the Nobel peace laureate's historic entry into parliament.

The two were due to discuss democratization, parliamentary affairs and a peace process with ethnic rebels, said a spokesman for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

On her return to Yangon from the capital, Naypyitaw, Suu Kyi told reporters only that "it was a good meeting."

Suu Kyi has long fought for democratic rule against the former military regime, and spent about 15 years under house arrest for her efforts. Her party boycotted a November 2010 general election, saying it was unfair and

Pro-democracy icon

Aung San Suu Kyi's group captured 43 seats to become the main opposition presence in parliament, which is overwhelmingly dominated by allies of the former military regime.

- They take their seats when the next session of parliament opens April 23.

undemocratic.

But when Thein Sein became president he began reforms easing the political landscape.

The election was viewed as a milestone for Myanmar and an astonishing reversal of fortune for former political prisoner Suu Kyi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Aung San Suu Kyi smiles as she talks to journalists Wednesday.

KHIN MAUNG WIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giant Indonesian earthquake triggers panic but no tsunami

The sound of sirens.

Massive 8.6 quake terrifies residents of South Pacific archipelago, bringing back nightmares of 2004 tragedy

Cries of panic and fervent prayers rang out Wednesday as Indonesians rushed toward high ground after two strong earthquakes raised fears of a killer tsunami.

Alerts were raised as far away as Africa and Australia but this time the big waves didn't come.

In western Indonesia, distraught women ran into the streets clinging to crying children as back-to-back tsunami warnings revived memories of the 2004 disaster that claimed 230,000 lives in nearly a dozen countries.

"God! What have we done to deserve this?" one mother screamed as residents around her piled into cars and onto the backs of motorcycles. "What



The walls of a prison were damaged by strong earthquakes in Indonesia's Aceh province on Wednesday. The two massive quakes caused tsunami warnings, but no deadly waves or serious damage occurred. KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

sins have we committed?"

Two deadly tsunamis in the last decade — the most recent off Japan just one year ago — have left the world much better prepared.

Sirens sounded along coastlines and warnings spread like wildfire by text messaging. Though often chaotic, evacua-

tions began immediately, with streets clogged with traffic, especially in Aceh province, where 170,000 people were killed in 2004.

Countries all along the Indian Ocean — from Australia and India to as far off as Africa — received alerts from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Ha-

waii saying they should prepare for the possibility of seismically charged waves.

An hour later the tsunami warnings were lifted, and damage from the tremors was minimal — something experts attributed to the unique nature of the fault line.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trayvon Martin shooting. Zimmerman to plead not guilty to murder two

The neighbourhood watch volunteer who shot unarmed black teen Trayvon Martin was arrested and charged with second-degree murder, after weeks of mounting tensions and protests across the U.S.

George Zimmerman, 28, could get up to life in prison if convicted. His new lawyer said Wednesday that Zimmerman will plead not guilty. Zimmerman turned himself in Wednesday, and he is expected to appear in court Thursday.

The February shooting brought demands from civil-rights leaders for Zimmerman's arrest and set off a furious debate over race and self-defence.

Zimmerman initially was not arrested in part because of Florida's "stand your ground" law, which gives people wide leeway to use deadly force without having to retreat in the face of danger.

Zimmerman's new attorney, Mark O'Mara, said he will invoke the "stand your ground" law in Zimmerman's defence.

Martin's parents expressed relief over the decision to prosecute him.

Recounting the incident

On Feb. 26, Martin was returning from a convenience store when Zimmerman started following him, telling police dispatchers he looked suspicious.

- Zimmerman stated Martin attacked him after he had given up chasing the teenager and was returning to his truck.
- He told police that Martin knocked him to the ground and began slamming his head on the sidewalk. Zimmerman's father says Martin threatened to kill his son.
- A video taken about 40 minutes after the shooting as Zimmerman arrived at the Sanford police station showed him walking unassisted without difficulty.

Zimmerman's brother Robert Zimmerman Jr. told CNN on Wednesday night: "Our brother literally had to save his life by taking a life. And that's a situation nobody wants to be in, ever." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Texas cops keeping eye on nude maid service

Police in this conservative Texas city are keeping close tabs on a young entrepreneur's recently opened cleaning service that offers nude maids.

Lubbock police Sgt. Jonathan Stewart said the owner of Fantasy Maid Service of Lubbock doesn't have a permit to operate a sexually oriented business and officers are watching for any violation, which would bring a \$2,000 fine.

But owner Melissa Borrett insists she's not operating such a business. Customers pay \$100 an hour for one maid or \$150 an hour for two maids, and no touching is allowed, she said.

"I run a maid service," the 26-year-old entrepreneur said. "We really just clean houses. These girls are not performers. They're maids."

The West Texas native and mother said she started the business about a month ago because she was struggling as a waitress to make ends meet. She had even been living at the Occupy Lubbock encampment near Texas Tech University's campus in Lubbock.

"I just decided to go a little bigger, work a little smarter," she said.

Her business model isn't unique, but the city's ordinance

Booming business

- So far, Borrett said, business has been good and she is now busy interviewing to hire more maids — she has three on staff.
- Fantasy maid service offers a regular discount to government employees and law enforcement. An ad posted Friday on the online bartering site Craigslist offered 20 per cent discounts for Easter weekend.

requires all sexually oriented businesses to apply for a permit, which costs \$650 a year, and to post a \$5,000 surety bond or letter of credit.

Such businesses are defined as any commercial venture whose operations include "providing, featuring or offering of employees or entertainment personnel who appear in a state of nudity, seminude or simulated nudity and provide live performances or entertainment" intended to sexually stimulate or gratify customers "and which is offered as a feature of a primary business activity of the venture." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Abandoned puppies found zipped in suitcase

A man tried to abandon six English bulldog puppies and their mother by zipping them inside a suitcase and leaving it outside an Ohio business near a trash bin with their mother. The man was charged after authorities found he'd left the luggage tag with his contact information attached.

DAVE ZAPOTOSKY/THE BLADE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saggy pants land man in jail

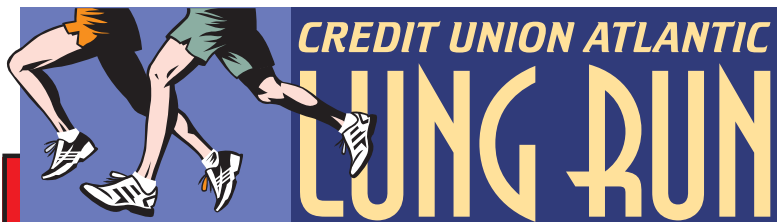
An Alabama judge ordered a man to serve three days in jail for contempt of court for wearing so-called saggy pants. Twenty-year-old LaMarcus D. Ramsey was in Autauga County Circuit Court on Tuesday to enter a plea on a charge of receiving stolen property.

Circuit Judge John Bush told Ramsey his blue jeans were sagging too low and gave him the three-day stint. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

'Miracle' baby alive in coffin

A mother in Argentina says she fell to her knees in shock after finding her baby alive in a coffin in the morgue nearly 12 hours after the girl had been declared dead.

Doctors gave her the death certificate just 20 minutes after the baby was born. The baby was quickly put in a coffin and taken to the morgue's refrigeration room. Twelve hours passed before she and her husband were able to open the coffin to say their last goodbyes. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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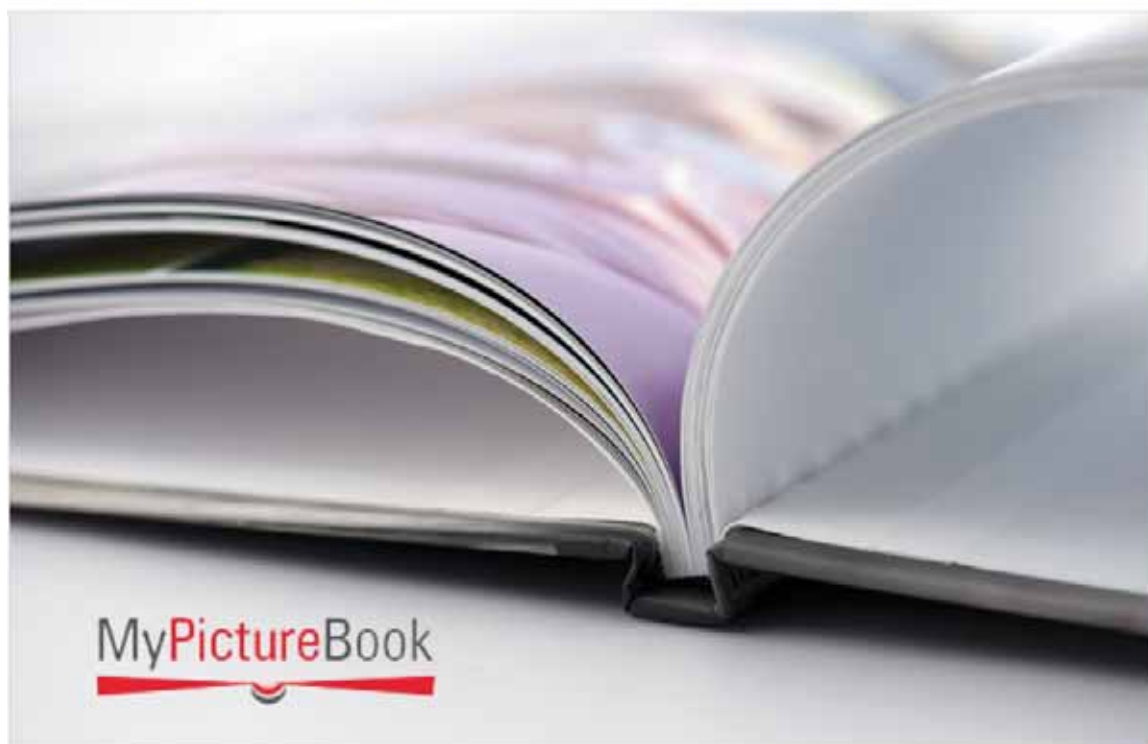
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Making final orbit in Race for Space

Metro English Canada's finalists for Metro's Race for Space are competing against 14 others from around the world for a chance to be launched into space. The winner — to be selected by an international panel of judges — will be announced April 27.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

KIRBY 'OUTLANDISH'

Will Kirby grew up dreaming of flying to Mars to search for life on the Red Planet.

Thanks to Metro International's Race for Space contest, he's one step closer to his goal. Kirby is Canada's co-finalist for a chance to fly into space.

Kirby says he saw the contest in the paper and decided to take a shot. He then pressed his friends and family to back his entry.

As the votes grew, the undergrad biology student planted himself in public places on the Dalhousie University campus in Halifax to have loud conversations

with friends about the contest, and about how he needed online support.

"I began to think, Hey, this is actually possible," he says. "Over the next few days, I did a lot of arm waving at Dalhousie University."

Kirby, 23, was born in Ottawa, raised in Acton, Ont., and moved to Halifax to study. His father has a PhD in chemistry, and childhood walks were filled with discussions of quantum physics. "I always had a big interest in science, mainly because of him," he says.

The idea of actually being in space awes him. "I would try to make an emotional,

inspiring speech, but I don't know if I'll just be like, 'Daaaaaarrrrr,'" he laughs.

Each Metro country is submitting finalists, and a jury will pick the winner April 27. The actual flight would happen in 2014.

Even if he falls short in the Race for Space, Kirby hopes to make it off Earth one day. He plans to get his PhD in astrobiology, the study of the potential for life on other planets, and has the "outlandish" goal of becoming an astronaut.

"The ultimate goal is to get to Mars and be one of the first scientists who discovers extraterrestrial life," he says.

"I can fight as hard as I can to get as close to my goal as possible. If it's not in the stars, then I can say I did my best."

JON TATTIE/FOR METRO

On the web

Read Kirby's entry at metronews.ca/features.

We've all come to know and love the quirky character Bubbles from the Canadian TV show Trailer Park Boys. Behind the big glasses, kitten obsession and signature frown is Mike Smith, a man who has loved space and rocketry since he was five years old.

Since March 5, applicants across 22 countries have been narrowed down, leaving Smith to be Canada's co-finalist for a chance to fly into space.

"The whole experience of going through the training and learning about the space vehicle, the build up to it, would be amazing," says Smith.

Smith, 39, grew up in Nova Scotia and studied English at St. Francis Xavier University.

If he wins, he plans on making a documentary, recording the process leading up to the flight. Smith says the documentary could inspire youth to become involved in space exploration.

The avid Rush fan says,

BUBBLES 'REALLY COOL'

if allowed, he would bring music with him into space.

"It would be really cool to listen to Cygnus X1 in space." The Rush track is a psychedelic blend of rock, ambient sound effects and metal.

Smith says he would also love to bring his beloved Conky, the ventriloquist puppet, with him for the trip.

"Some friends and family have been telling me I'm nuts to get into a space vehicle.

They have opinions about if it's a good idea to shoot yourself into space," says Smith, who's more than excited at the prospect of space travel.

DELIA MACPHERSON/
FOR METRO IN TORONTO

On the web

Read Bubbles' entry at metronews.ca/features.



CONTRIBUTED



'Hello, Earthlings!' Metro reporter says from 'space'

Trying space travel on for size. Metro Holland's Jeroen van Wieringen spends the day at a space-flight simulator facility



JEROEN VAN WIERINGEN
Metro World News

"And on the left you'll find a sickness bag," Mark, a technician from Space XC, says, concluding his instructions before he closes down the spaceship's cockpit.

I nod bravely, but secretly I die a thousand times. I have every reason to. It's not every day that I am flying 3,500 kilometres an hour, up to 103 kilometres in the sky — all a part of becoming an astronaut.

You may be scratching your head and thinking, "Astronaut?"

Yes, but in truth a virtual one. I'm sitting in a facility called Desdemona in the Dutch village of Soesterberg.

Here, you'll find the only simulator in the world that can literally turn in every direction. Because of extremely good projections in the cockpit, the user — in this case, me — thinks he's sitting in a real spaceship.

"All right, Jeroen, just press the red button when you are ready," the "pilot" Harry says calmly.

"No, don't!" the scared one inside me thinks. "Go for it!" screams the daredevil in the same body. And that last one wins.

I'm being pressed into the seat as the world around me is passing me by faster and faster.

"More than 200 kilometres an hour ... and liftoff." Thanks, Harry. As if I



Our reporter Jeroen van Wieringen gets inside the SXC flight simulator. *sxc*

That down-to-earth feeling

It takes me by surprise. Blood is rushing down, my head feels lighter. I pinch my hands and put pressure on my legs to fight it. It barely helps. If this goes on much longer...

Jeroen van Wieringen during his return to Earth.

haven't noticed that myself already.

I see land below me, clouds next to me, stars above me. The continuous noise of the rocket engines is banging in my ears. But then — silence.

The engines are shut down, the enormous pressure has been lifted. Weightlessness, that's how it feels. Yuri Gagarin, I'm just like you!

A big smile appears on my

face and my eyes are looking in all directions as fast as they can, just to miss nothing of the wonderful world around me.

"So right now, can I call myself a virtual astronaut?" I hear myself asking.

"Yes, now you are, because you just crossed the zone of 100 kilometres, the boundary between our atmosphere and outer space," Harry says enthusiastically into my headset.

Hello, Earthlings!
However, going up means coming down again as well.

I know what comes next — they explained it to me. It seems like about three times my own weight, about 250 kilograms, is trying to crush me.

Although I knew it was coming, it takes me by surprise. Blood rushes down, my head feels lighter. I pinch my hands and put pressure on my legs to fight it. It barely helps. If this goes on much longer...

But it doesn't.
"Welcome back, this is the right time to have a relaxed final part of the flight," Harry says. "Well done."

And — to be honest — I agree with him. Especially when I see the empty sickness bag next to me.

Commercial space flights

Heading for next frontier 'a life changer'

Michiel Mol has been dreaming of going to space since he was eight-years-old.

Influenced by science-fiction movies and by watching the space race put the first man on the moon, he's always wanted to experience the galaxy first-hand.

"It's all because of something inside of us human beings," Mol tells Metro.

"We want to go further



The model of the Space XC space station in Curaçao. *sxc*

and find the next frontier."

Now, Mol may be able to make his and the dreams of many others come true.

He's the CEO and partner of Space XC, a company that will be sending people to

outer space on its spacecraft starting in 2014.

Previous space travellers have been known to pay exorbitant amounts of up to \$50 million US to get to the International Space Station.

Space Adventures, based in Vienna, Va., is offering a 90-minute spacewalk and five-day stay on the ISS for \$15 million — but the flight isn't included.

"You're looking down on the seven billion people on Earth. It's really a life-changer," Mol says.

**MICHELLE CASTILLO/
METRO WORLD NEWS**

Online

For the full Race for Space package, visit metronews.ca/features. Additional features include:

- New York designers best known for dressing Lady Gaga and Rihanna give us their take on a new spacesuit.
- Neil deGrasse Tyson of New York's Hayden Planetarium reviews Angry Birds Space.
- Businessman Gregory Olsen dishes on being a space tourist.



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U.S. sues publishers over ebook pricing

The U.S. Justice Department and 15 states sued Apple Inc. and major book publishers Wednesday, alleging a conspiracy that raised the price of electronic books.

They said the scheme cost consumers more than \$100 million US in the past two years by adding \$2 or \$3, sometimes as much as \$5, to the price of each ebook.

Attorney General Eric Holder said executives at the highest levels of the companies conspired to eliminate

competition among ebook sellers. Justice's antitrust chief, Sharis Pozen, said the executives were desperate to get Amazon.com — the marketer of Kindle ebook readers — to raise the \$9.99 price point it had set for the most popular ebook titles, because that was substantially below their hardcover prices.

The federal government reached a settlement with three of the publishers, Hachette, HarperCollins

and Simon & Shuster. But it will proceed with its lawsuit in federal court in New York City against Apple and Holtzbrinck Publishers, doing business as Macmillan, and The Penguin Publishing Co. Ltd., doing business as Penguin Group.

Connecticut and Texas, two of the 15 states filing a separate lawsuit, reached agreements with Hachette and HarperCollins to provide \$52 million in restitution to consumers, using a

formula based on the number of states participating and the number of ebooks sold in each state.

Other states in the case may sign onto the agreement, and other companies might be persuaded to join.

Holder told a Justice Department news conference that "we believe that consumers paid millions of dollars more for some of the most popular titles" as a result of the alleged conspiracy. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Eye on the (very) small screen

The HTC Evo 3D smartphone is shown in San Francisco on June 21, 2011. Canada's big telecom companies have scooped up television stations for more content, but so far small numbers of consumers are watching live sports, news and other shows on their smartphones. When you look at it as a percentage of all TV watched, viewing television on smartphones is certainly well under one per cent, said Deloitte Canada analyst Duncan Stewart, who noted that screen size is a big consideration when it comes to how consumers view content. According to research by the Media Technology Monitor, only about four per cent of anglophone consumers were watching TV on their phones last year, although the figure had doubled since 2010.

ERIC RISBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Social networking

New changes to Google Plus

Google is tweaking its social network, Google Plus, to make it easier to use and to distinguish it from rival Facebook.

The most visible change is a new navigation ribbon with icons for the most-used features, such as games, photos and your personal profile.

Users can reorder the features and hide the ones they don't use often.

The changes, announced Wednesday, are designed to help Google Plus adapt more easily to growth — and to make room for new features in the future.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investment

Canada's banks a safe haven: Moody's

Canada's banks are collectively the soundest in the world, according to Moody's Investors Service, which has recommended the financial institutions to jittery global investors.

The New York-based agency rated all of Canada's big banks at double-A2 or

better in a report Wednesday, higher than bank rankings in the United States, Europe and other regions.

Canada's big banks also posted good results in the first quarter of 2012, the agency noted.

The rating report is just the latest recognition of Canadian banks, which — unlike counterparts in the U.S. and Europe — suffered no failures during the financial crisis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Autos

China's vehicle sales remain slow

Official data show Chinese vehicle sales were muted in March, rising one per cent from a year earlier as car makers cut prices to counter slack demand.

China, the world's largest market for new vehicles, has seen sales growth slow over the past year, though sales for foreign automakers have fared relatively well.

The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said Wednesday that 1.84 million vehicles were sold in March, up from 1.8 million a year earlier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Housing starts rise sharply

CMHC report. Condo sector shows no sign of cooling — particularly in Toronto

Canada's home-building industry was unexpectedly hot in March — particularly the condo sector in Toronto.

The latest data on residential construction surprised analysts Wednesday, with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) reporting 14,517 actual starts in March, giving a seasonally adjusted rate of 215,600 units a year.

That constitutes a five per cent jump from the previous month and the highest level of starts since the fall of 2008.

As well, CMHC upgraded its estimates for January and February, suggesting home construction was a key component of economic growth

for Canada in the first quarter of this year.

Ontario, particularly Toronto, had the country's biggest increase in multiple-dwelling units, a group that includes condos and apartments. Multiple starts in the province jumped by 50 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis.

"Certainly we think the housing sector will downshift at some point ... but we're not quite at that point yet," said Peter Buchanan, an analyst with CIBC World Markets.

Buchanan said the condo market may be sizzling due to demographics as baby boomers downsize from larger, detached homes, as well as international speculation and a trend to more downtown living among Canadians as the cost of commuting increases with rising gas prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Stretching a dollar further

A shopper picks up some goods at a Dollarama store in Toronto. Dollarama Inc. aims to add up to 60 new stores this year, primarily in Ontario and Western Canada, in the face of growing competition from U.S. discount rival Dollar Tree. The Montreal-based company operates 704 stores across the country after opening 52 new stores in the last fiscal year. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cool currency

Mint introduces new glow-in-the-dark coin

The Royal Canadian Mint seems to be in an awfully experimental mood lately.

First, the penny was given the boot in last week's budget, an announcement that was quietly followed up by the unveiling of an in-development digital currency chip.

Now, perhaps as a nod to what could look increasingly like the impending extinction of coins, the mint has taken the wraps off a new quarter that stars a dinosaur

discovered in the Grande Prairie, Alta., area.

And it also happens to be the Mint's first glow-in-the-dark coin.

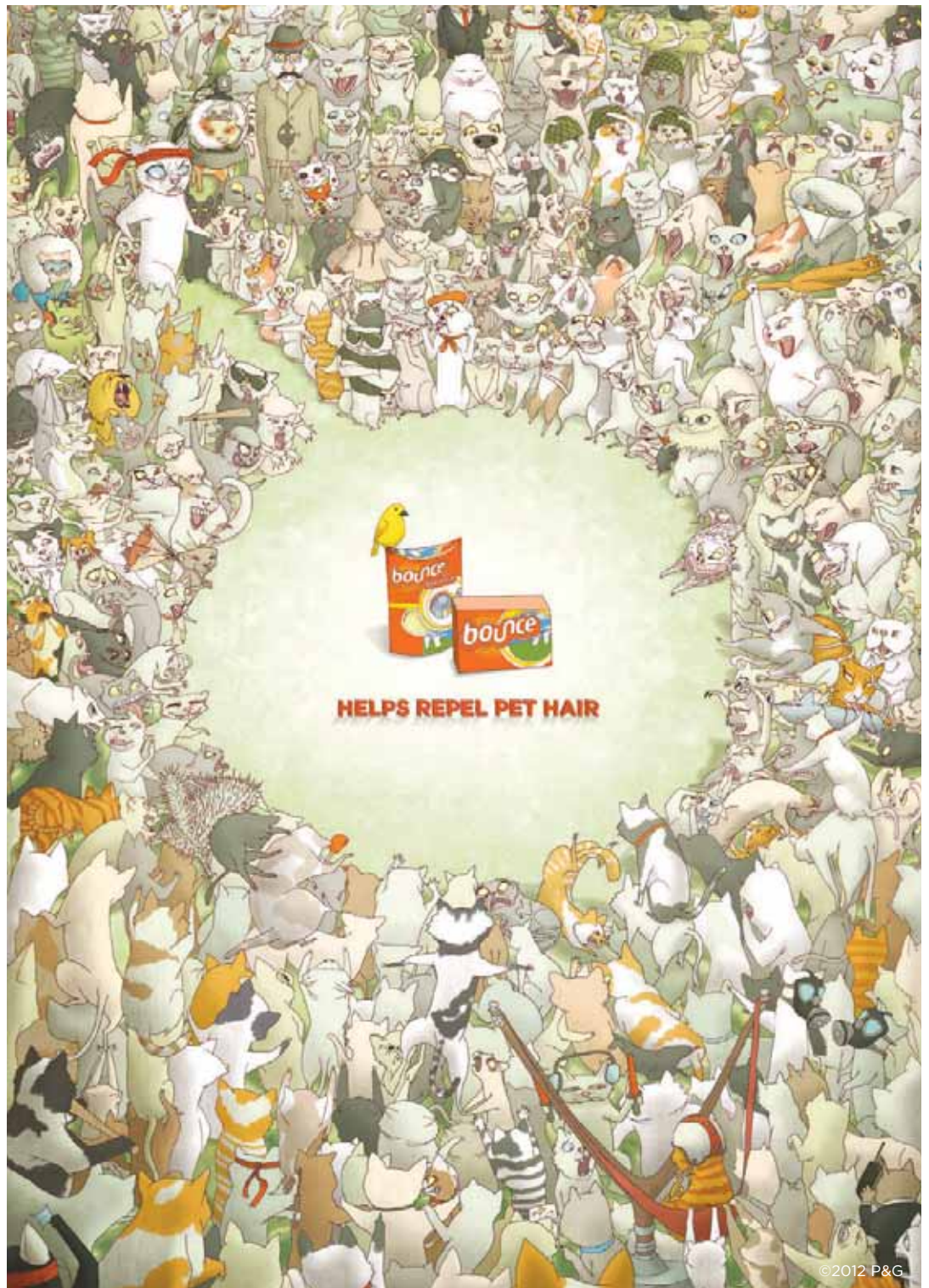
In your standard, well-lit coin-counting situation, the very cool quarter boasts an image of Pachyrhinosaurus lakustai. But when the lights go down, the image reverts to a luminous look at the dinosaur's skeleton.

The mint says 25,000 copies of the eye-catching currency have been made, part of a planned series of four glow-in-the-dark coins spotlighting prehistoric creatures. They are available for purchase online and at Canada Post locations for \$29.95.

ANDREW FITZFIELD/METRO DIGITAL

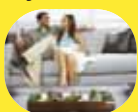


The Royal Canadian Mint's first glow-in-the-dark coin. THEMINT.CA



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LET THE REAL HOCKEY SEASON BEGIN



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

What with the latest news involving nuclear weapons and dictatorships, it will be paramount to check up on those things when the Stanley Cup playoffs are over.

But for now, let's focus on

what's important. Sixteen teams are vying for the world's most famous bird bath/pudding bowl in a bid to take it away from my Boston Bruins, who won last year in a victory that I have recounted three or four times (5,000, tops).

Like many journalists, my empathy button is worn down after years of overuse. I recently had a completely dispassionate conversation with an editor about whether a person can be "partially disembowelled." I believe I was eating a sandwich.

But confront me with the NHL playoffs and, well, this is emotional. This is life and death.

Just sayin'

We live in a country where our government was completely unapologetic for a \$10-billion discrepancy in the costs of fighter jets, but the Toronto Maple Leafs apologized in full-page newspaper ads for their poor season.

That might sound ridiculous if you're not a sports fan, but I'm not alone. We live in a country where our government was completely unapologetic for a \$10-billion discrepancy in the costs of fighter jets, but the Toronto Maple Leafs apologized in full-page newspaper ads for their poor season.

Heck, if this government owned the Winnipeg Jets and increased ticket prices by \$293 (the \$10 billion broken down to each Canadian), Manitobans would lay siege to Ottawa. And you can bet the government would be apologizing like a

theatregoer trying to get to his mid-row seat.

Long column short, hockey is serious business, which is why my yearly Stanley Cup playoff predictions are so hotly anticipated. They were completely accurate last year, as far as you know. And here they are!

- "Because it's the cup" commercials, which are aimed at people who don't watch hockey, will air only during hockey.
- If Glenn Healy is watching, every goal will be "unacceptable." If Greg Millen is watching, every goal will be "absolutely no chance for the goaltender." If they both watch the same goal at the same time, the universe will collapse in on itself.
- Every fan whose team loses to one of the eventual Stanley Cup finalists will consider that third place and argue that it shows how close they were to winning.
- Players will be asked, several times, if scoring the first goal is and/or was important. Not once will the player look at the reporter and say, "How much do they pay you exactly?"

And those are my predictions. I'm also picking Boston and Pittsburgh to meet in the Eastern Conference final, which would keep me busy until June. If Leafs/Oilers/Flames/Habs fans could keep an eye on North Korea and the Conservatives during that time, that'd be great.

Remember to keep your head up at all times.



Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chára hoists the Stanley Cup for thousands of fans to see during a rally in celebration of the team's victory in Boston, in this June 2011 file photo.

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Playoffs making a splash



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Stanley Cup

Replica doubles as fountain in N.Y.C.

To kick off the NHL Stanley Cup playoffs, a 21-foot, 6,600-pound replica of the Stanley Cup trophy was unveiled in Times Square in New York on Wednesday.

The replica trophy doubled as a water fountain that residents and visitors can drink from — much to the amusement of these young fans.

GETTY IMAGES

Vancouver

The playoffs began Wednesday night with three games, one of which saw the Vancouver Canucks hosting the Los Angeles Kings.

- With memories of last year's melee etched into the collective consciousness of Vancouver, local business owners say they're hoping for the best but prepared for the worst.
- "We know we're going to be judged kind of how we do in the playoffs," Canucks forward Ryan Kesler said. "Now the real season begins. It's going to be a good test, this first round, for us."
- The Vancouver Canucks carry the NHL's best record into the Stanley Cup playoffs for the second year in a row.

• More playoffs, page 34. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



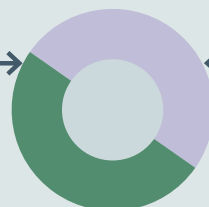
NHL commissioner Gary Bettman stands between the Stanley Cup and a 21-foot replica. GETTY IMAGES



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50%
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Twitter

@mevilleneuve88:

Off to @TimHortons to drink loads of coffee and do #crosswords #cryptoquote and #sudoku thanks @metrohalifax for being a key part of my day!

@catholicgirly:

#Halifax pedestrians: STOP STOPPING at Barrington and Spring Garden. You're driving me insane. Not everyone works at the Maritime Centre

@katieyingram:

Sad news about @ClosetoHomeCBC's cancellation. A great show that reached out to the region's more rural areas (and a great place to intern!)

@theycr:

Reading the CBC Halifax cuts, don't want to be mean but the 3 shows cancelled - I've never listened or watched to any of them.

@MandyBurkeo:

Halifax, why must you be so nice during exam period?



A classically trained musician, Sarah Slean is enjoying international success on stage. HANDOUT

Canadian songstress soars above mainstream mediocrity

Local music. Sarah Slean taking the stage for her first-ever performance with Symphony Nova Scotia



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

Slated by Time Magazine as one of the most compelling acts Canada has to offer, Sarah Slean found herself

signed to Atlantic Records at the age of 19.

With haunting, poetic lyrics, and classical command of the piano, it's hard to believe Sarah Slean dreamt of life in a lab coat.

"I was going to make the world better through science but I discovered that the music I'd been learning, due to my love for it, took over my life in a very effortless way," Slean shares with me in an interview.

Six studio albums and a handful of Juno nods later, this Pickering, Ont. native remains modest about her

Tickets

How to get tickets

- **Seats.** Sarah Slean with Symphony Nova Scotia is slated for 7:30 p.m. at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Tickets range in price from \$29 to \$52.

craft.

"I realized in my formal musical education that I wasn't interested in being a master of an instrument, she

says. "Not being a true master of either music or text but knowing them and loving them and appreciating them enough, and still being a student enough to be able to combine them so that become stronger."

Coming of age during the last gasp of musical creativity, Slean had a front row seat to witness its inevitable decline.

"I started my career before everyone and their brother were making records in their basement," Slean explains. "There was an explosion of creativity, but an ex-

pansion of that kind not only means there is an increase of opportunity for talent people but also an explosion of mediocrity."

Personifying poise, Slean is far removed from "the Justin Bieber's of this world" and constantly pushes to learn more about her craft.

"I like the ground that I inhabit right now but I do get restless when I'm not learning."

Slean will continue her education as she takes the stage on Friday night for her debut, live performance with Symphony Nova Scotia.

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Alba gets her poetry voice on

Jessica Alba is adding her voice to National Poetry Month, helping to lure children into the art form. Alba is among more than a dozen celebrity parents whose poetry readings are airing on the Disney and Disney Junior channels this month. Readings by Viola Davis, Caroline Kennedy, Liev Schreiber and Katie Holmes are also featured in "A Poem Is ...", a short-form series that sets verse to classic Disney animation. Langston Hughes, Mary Ann Hoberman and May Swenson are among the writers whose work is included. Alba's segment will air April 29, on the Disney Channel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web



Surprise! Keith Urban offers a few, gets his own from Vince Gill at All For The Hall concert

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Take spring style by storm

Go ahead, let it pour.
If it rains on your parade you'll be ready

ELIZABETH
BEDDALL
Life@metronews.ca

Spring has sprung and the world is... wet? As Canadians we've learned how to rock any climate, and the soggy days of the season are no exception.

This year however, retailers have taken rain gear up a notch — and are giving us no choice but to dance through every downpour.

"Colour is huge this spring," says Sears trend director Cynthia Florek.

"We're seeing the trench updated in electric colours like blue, green and coral or through interesting textures and effects like micro-suede perforations and neutral colour blocking."

Boots, umbrellas and other permeable pairables have followed suit, so take stock of this gorgeous gear.



I'm only happy when it rains. JOE FRESH

On trend

"The trench is the perfect outerwear piece to transition into spring... And anoraks, anoraks, anoraks — spring must-have! I love the Joe Fresh nylon anorak over a tulip dress with pretty pumps — très chic!"

Adrienne Shoom
Style Director at Joe Fresh



Banana Republic Solid Belted Mac,
\$160 - bananarepublic.com



Attitude Jay Manuel Funnel-Coated
Trench, \$179.99, sears.ca



Joe Fresh Mac Coat, \$29,
joefresh.com

3

LIFE

Style file

Colour me trendy

Most of us can pair one bold colour with another - it just takes a little confidence. But colour blocking, that's more of an art, and it's one to be mastered this spring season.

The highest standard of colour blocking was set by Yves Saint Laurent, who transferred the graphic, pop-art look of painter Piet Mondrian onto fabric. The YSL look was an instant hit as it fit so nicely into the fresh, no-frills mod fashions of the mid 1960s.

• A general definition of colour blocking is the pairing of chunks of contrasting colours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web



Christian Dior names
Belgian designer
Raf Simons as its new
artistic director



Gap Rubber Boots

Gap
\$54.95, gap.com

Fulton Red Bird Cage Umbrella

Sears
\$34.99, sears.ca



Ladies Rubber Boots in Lace

Walmart
\$20, walmart.ca

Old Navy Dot Umbrella

Old Navy
\$12.50, oldnavy.ca



Jessica Weekend Boater Shoes

Sears
\$59.99, sears.ca

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Reclaim Sunday dinner with dishes the family can bond over

Pasta con Salsicce e Broccolini



This recipe serves eight to 10 people. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

"I first enjoyed this dish on the island of Sardinia, where it was served to me with homemade sausage and the pasta della casa, ear-shaped orecchiette," writes Lisa Caponigri, in her new book *Whatever Happened to Sunday Dinner?*

The dish is included in the book, which focuses on bringing families together.

1. Remove sausages from casings and crumble. In a large skillet over high heat, brown sausage. Transfer to paper towels to drain. Wipe the fat out of the pan.

2. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook until al dente (if using rigatoni or orecchiette, cook for 8 minutes; if using penne, cook for 9 minutes).

3. Heat olive oil and garlic in wiped-out skillet over

medium-high heat until garlic is golden.

4. Add broccoli rabe, red pepper flakes and salt and cook for 5 minutes, stirring a few times.

5. Add sausage and butter and cook over high heat for 5 minutes, stirring a few times.

6. Drain pasta, reserving 250 ml (1 cup) of the cooking water and transfer pasta to skillet.

7. Mix well, adding water if pasta seems too dry. Pour into a large warm serving bowl, sprinkle cheese over top and serve.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY DINNER? A YEAR OF ITALIAN MENUS WITH 250 RECIPES THAT CELEBRATE FAMILY BY LISA CAPONIGRI (STERLING EPIURE, 2012).

Ingredients

8 to 10 portions

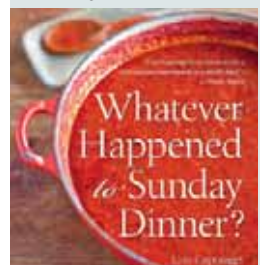
- 1 kg (2 lb) Italian sausage
- 1 kg (2 lb) rigatoni, penne or orecchiette
- 250 ml (1 cup) extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 cloves garlic, crushed into a paste
- 1.5 g (3 lb) broccolini rabe,

stems trimmed and cut into 2.5-cm (1-inch) pieces

- 5 ml (1 tsp) red pepper flakes
- 5 ml (1 tsp) sea salt
- 60 ml (4 tbsp/1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 250 ml (1 cup) grated Pecorino Romano

Cookbook of the Week

Whatever Happened to Sunday Dinner?



Lisa Caponigri has released *Whatever Happened to Sunday Dinner?* to give families recipes they can easily cook and enjoy together.

Caponigri has devised 52 delicious Italian menus — one for each Sunday of the year — that feature classics like crostini, lasagne, polenta, stuffed peppers, veal piccata, risotto alla Milanese, and ricotta pie.

There are also many surprises like Woodman's pasta and Italian french fries — and traditional, treasured dishes from her own family's kitchen, such as Nana's Strufole and Grandma Caponigri's Ragu Sauce.

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Match it up: Does this go with that?



Decor rules: Draperies should blend with the wall colour, and your style of artwork should inspire the look of your area rugs. CRATEANDBARREL.CA

Decor ideas. How to match your home decor for a beautiful coordinated look



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Like most decor enthusiasts, I prefer to space out my decorating projects and not do it all at once. This gives me a chance to stand back and reflect on my choices. Plus, it's easier on the pocketbook.

But one danger of decorating in stages is that some people may lose focus of the overall look they're trying to achieve. Here's a brief guide to help you get inspired and stay on track:

Fabrics and paint

Start with the largest pattern in each room. In the bedroom, it's the duvet cover/bedding; in the living room it's the sofa; in the bathroom it's the shower

curtain. The second major colour you see in the pattern is the one you match with accessories in the room, and the third colour in the pattern is used for the wall colour. If there is not a pattern or colour used in your fabric choices then you have a monochromatic colour scheme (all variants of the same colour). In this case, choose the same colour for accessories and wall colours, but choose lighter or darker versions to make things more interesting.

Windows

Shades should blend with the window's framing. If your window trims are white, choose a white window shade. If you have wood window trims, then choose taupe, brown or wood shades. Draperies should always match the walls. A shade lighter or darker than your paint colour will make them a mainstay classic in the room's decor.

Rugs

Match your area rugs to any artwork you have (or are attracted to). If you like rich Van Gogh-style art, choose richly

patterned Persian-style rugs to blend in. If you gravitate toward modern black and white art, choose neutral area rugs in very light or very dark tones.

Lighting

If you are having trouble choosing a lampshade, try matching it to the frames on your walls. If you have dark brown or black frames, choose the same colour for lampshades. A plain white lampshade will always work but can be a little boring, especially in a room where deeper, darker tones are being used.

Kitchens

The colour of your kitchen backsplash should blend with the upper and lower cabinetry. This will encourage the eye to travel vertically without interruption. For instance, if you have deep-cherry-wood-toned cabinets, your backsplash could be a ruddy brown slate to match. Countertops should get the same colouring and tones of your appliances. If you've chosen stainless-steel appliances with black trims, a grey-toned counter with dark spots or veining would be perfect.

Dust begets more dust

A dust-up with those bunnies?



CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles the Butler, I am finding it very difficult to do more than "move dust around" when I dust. A lot has to do with static electricity, as the problem is worse on or near electronics such as the TV or DVD player. I am concerned about the use of water or furniture polishes on some types of wood and

wood finishes, as I ruined some pieces a while back using polish. Can you help?
Robin

Hello Robin, As I am sure you have heard me say before, dust is a never-ending duty. So dealing with the dust is important as it continues to build up and can lead to some big dust bunnies.

Remember that even if you don't use a certain room in your house, you still need to dust that space on a regular basis because dust attracts more dust.

Here are some dusting tips:

1. Dust often.
2. Don't use chemical dusting sprays as they often have sili-

cone in them and this builds up on your furniture, and attracts more dust.

3. My personal trick that works perfectly is to wet your hands just a little, then dry them on a cotton cloth (only 100 per cent cotton). This process makes the cotton cloth the perfect humidity to "damp dust" — but remember to use very little or no water. The cloth should be only humid to pick up the dust perfectly. What's great about this is that there are no chemicals, and the cotton cloths can be cleaned in the washing machine and reused. Give this a try and let us know how it works. **HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASK-CHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA**

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Buying a new home shouldn't be a stressful experience. Ask the right questions so the process will move along smoothly. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Diligent homework will pay off

Potential pitfalls.
Top 10 questions to ask before you buy a new home

JON TATTRIE
For Metro

You might think buying a brand new home means you won't have a thing to worry

about, but new-builds come with their own set of potential pitfalls.

Paul Pettipas, executive director of the Nova Scotia Homebuilders Association, helped Metro compile a list of the top 10 things to ask about when buying a new-build home.

1 Who is the builder? Check out their reputation by talking to your real estate agent, researching them online (add negatives to the

search to dig up any bad reviews) and checking with the Better Business Bureau.

2 What's the history of the subdivision? How are the houses selling, and what's the price range? Is the area finished?

3 How long has it been on the market? If it has been for sale for a long time, you will want to know why.

4 How energy efficient is the home? It should have an EnerGuide rating of at

least 80.

5 What is the heat source? Oil, natural gas, or electric? Each has advantages and disadvantages.

6 What are the services in the neighbourhood? Does it have schools, playgrounds, bus routes, recreation centres, libraries, etc? Does the neighbourhood meet your lifestyle?

7 Will the home let you age in place? Pettipas says it can be little things, like the

ability to add grab bars in the tub, or structural things, like the hallways being wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair.

8 Can you expand the house if you need to? Does it have an unfinished basement, or a big enough backyard to create an addition?

9 What warranty does it have? What is covered, and for how long?

10 Find out about the deficiencies list. These are all the items that aren't completed when you move in, but the builder promises to do. Hold back money until the work is done.

Pettipas says it's a lot of tricky work, but it's worth the effort. "It's the thing that most of us hate. We have to do our homework. If you don't do your homework, you usually have to pay for it," Pettipas says.

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A COMMUNITY TO CALL HOME

WHEN PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CALL HOME, THEY USUALLY HAVE A LIST OF CRITERIA THEY HOPE TO MEET.

This list will include things like proximity to schools, parks, recreational facilities, bus routes and shopping.

Many communities offer some of these features, but not all of them.

“The best communities offer all of these features and The Parks of West Bedford is a well-planned community that offers all the amenities its residents want and need,” says Christina Baker, Sales & Marketing Associ-

ate with Clayton Developments Limited.

The Parks of West Bedford is located between the Kearney Lake and Hammonds Plains Roads and it offers easy and convenient access to the amenities of life.

The neighbourhood has been designed to promote a healthy and active lifestyle and has plenty of green spaces, parks, walking trails and natural recreation areas.

The Parks of West Bedford is an excellent fit for homeowners who want to live in a community where they can be assured of quality and value.

“A true planned community offers a mix of housing types and housing prices,” says Baker. “This enables people to buy or rent their first or starter home in the community and move up into larger and more executive homes as their family circumstances change.”

One of the benefits of this is that people can stay in the neighbourhood they love,

which is a luxury many people don’t have in some communities.

The Parks of West Bedford is a mixed-use community with many housing options. People have the flexibility to purchase home sites and build their own homes, purchase turn-key packages from a selection of exclusive builders who are building homes in the community or rent in a new apartment building that is now under construction.

The residential portion of the development will feature various fully-serviced housing styles, including single-family, townhouses, semi-detached homes and condominiums, offering leading-edge designs and energy-efficient building techniques.

Current exclusive builders in The Parks include: Provident Developments, Shaughnessy Homes, Ramar Construction, Picket Fence Homes, Homes by Highgate, Ariana Developments and Cresco.

Each builder offers a different look and

feel for their home designs, which gives homebuyers the options to find the home that is right for them.

While the backbone of the project is a strong partnership and a developer with a proven track record for building high-quality developments — such as Clayton Park West, The Ravines of Bedford South and Colby Village — the homes are built by quality builders who adhere to high standards, design controls and architectural integrity throughout the community.

LEARN MORE

People looking for more information about The Parks of West Bedford are welcomed to visit theparksofwestbedford.ca. People can also contact Sales Associate Cathy Hamilton at 832-1000 or visit the onsite Information Centre, which is located at 5 Capstone Cres., just off Gary Martin Drive.

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Include upgrades to your new home that will match the neighbourhood. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Keeping up with the Joneses

Upgrades. There are many factors to consider when choosing a new home

**RICHARD
WOODBURY**
For Metro

When people are buying a new home under construction there are always a litany of possible upgrades to bump up the purchase price and the home's eventual resale appeal. However, choosing the right upgrades requires careful planning and consideration.

"A very smart statement is that you upgrade in line with the neighbourhood or you lose money," says Sandy Hines, a real estate agent with Royal LePage Anchor Realty.

For example, if the other

homes in the neighbourhood have hardwood flooring, you will not want to be the one home in the neighbourhood with carpet.

It also means that one shouldn't sink \$50,000 into a kitchen in a \$200,000 home. Upgrades should be proportional and in line with the value of the home.

Flooring is a popular item to upgrade these days.

"A lot of people are looking for carpet-free homes," says Jane Jackson, a real estate agent with the Sutton Group.

As a result, people are upgrading to laminate or hardwood from carpet, and even moving to hardwood or ceramic tile from laminate.

Hines says, in most cases, people spend at least \$5,000 above the original purchase price to get some upgrades.

"Usually, at the end of the day, it would be very unusual for most buyers not to spend

at least \$5,000 to upgrade flooring, cabinets and trim," he says.

A finished basement is something that is better to take care of during the building stage, as opposed to later.

"People sometimes have great intentions of doing that later, but don't always do it," notes Jackson.

The time frame one plans on spending in the home is another factor to consider when making upgrades. In the short term, it is quite possible that people won't recoup their costs.

"Most of the upgrades, you don't make money on them," cautions Hines. "You enjoy them more and you may recover your cost, but you likely wouldn't sell your house for more."

For this reason, it's important to do upgrades for reasons of style and functionality, as opposed to purely for a profit motive.

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Beaverbank Road.



The key to ensuring the homebuilding process goes smoothly lies in having clear communication from the very start of the process, which includes detailed written documentation. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Process. Hitting the nail on the head with documentation

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

For new homes under construction, it usually isn't a stress-free process for the buyers. In the case of homes that are being built from plans — of which there isn't a model home to compare it to — the process is that much more difficult.

To help with the confusion, a person should hire a real estate agent who specializes in new home construction. This is especially crucial given that most builders will have a real estate agent working for them.

"I think Step 1 is having a real estate agent working on your behalf to make sure your interests are protected," says Ron Maher, a real estate agent with the Sutton Group.

The key to ensuring the homebuilding process goes smoothly lies in having clear communication from the very start. As part of this, the written documentation surrounding the sale should be very detailed, which will help ensure there are no (or few) surprises down the road.

Something that is popular in contracts is the use of the words "builder's choice." This means that the choice of a specific item will be made by the builder. This could apply to something as simple as a thermostat and is a detail that is easy to overlook.

Builder's choice

"I would ask for a standard set of specifications with model numbers and preferred suppliers so that you can actually go to their stores and see what these models are all about."

Ron Maher, Sutton Group real estate agent
Explaining "builder's choice" term that is popular in contracts

Choosing an agent

- Just like in any profession, not all real estate agents are of the same quality. When trying to select one, the website howrealtorshelp.ca recommends asking potential candidates questions such as:
- What separates you from your competition?
- What if I'm unhappy with the service?

With builder's choice, the buyer has no say in what thermostat is used and you could end up with a manual thermostat, as opposed to a more elaborate and energy-efficient programmable thermostat.

"I would ask for a standard set of specifications with model numbers and preferred suppliers so that you can actually go to their stores and see what these models are all about," says Maher.

The builder and buyer should also have clear expectations surrounding the number of site visits permitted, says Maher. He recommends that the real estate agent go with the client on these visits to monitor the progress.

"Most builders will allow a few site visits, but they don't want you there every week," says Maher.

When the house closes, there are usually holdbacks in place for work or repairs that still need to be taken care of, such as landscaping, paint touch-ups, etc. Holdbacks withhold a certain amount of money from the builder and aren't paid until the work is completed.

It is important to have a holdback that encourages the builder to do the remaining work promptly.

"Typically, you want it to be a little bit more than the value of the replacement cost," says Maher.

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Timeline. How long will it take to move in?

JON
TATTRIE
For Metro

Turning your dream home from an idea into a reality can take from a few months to a year, depending on the type of home, fittings, and how many snags you hit.

The first step is deciding on the plans for your home. This could take weeks if you go for a prefabricated home, or months if you design from scratch. Your builder will be able to give you an estimate on construction time once you have made your plans.

The Canadian Homebuilders Association says the next step is pre-construction. This involves a lot of paperwork as you submit your plans to HRM for building permits. A number of tests will have to be carried out on the land itself to make sure it can support your home. This could take a week or two.

When the project clears the red tape, the builders can start preparing the land. This may require blasting through bedrock and excavating a hole for the foundation and footings. Next is pouring the foundation.

"At this time, the builder may ask you to begin mak-

ing your selections — deciding on flooring, tiles, cabinets and so on," says the CHBA. "While it will be weeks before these items are installed, they must be ordered early to prevent delays later."

It will take about a week from breaking ground to get to this stage.

Once the skeleton is up, services such as plumbing and electrical can be roughed in, as can the heating system.

Progress speeds up over the next few weeks as dry-wall goes up, walls and ceilings are painted, the rest of the flooring is installed and interior doors are hung.

Outside, you will see crews put in the siding, gutter system, porches, decks and driveways.

At this stage, you can expect to be busy answering questions about what type of finishes you want.

Municipal inspectors will regularly visit the site and while this is usually straightforward, any problems could lead to delays.

When it's all done, you will go through a walk-through with the builder a few months or close to a year after you started.



It can take anywhere from a few months to more than a year to move into your new home. WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

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Fired-up Moosheads defeat Remparts 2-1

Staying alive. Halifax finally hangs on to a lead to force a Game 5 on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Metro Centre



MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads played as if they didn't want their season to end. That, in large part, ensured that it didn't.

With an ounce of desperation and an equal dose of composure, the Mooseheads stared down a 3-0 series deficit in the QMJHL quarter-final on Wednesday night at the Metro Centre and defeated the Quebec Remparts 2-1 to force a Game 5 on Friday on home ice.

The Moosehead stormed out of the gates with an 18-shot first period and received goals from Jonathan Drouin at 11:21 and Cameron Critchlow at 17:04. It was all the offence they needed.

"We don't want the series to end. We don't want to go home. That's enough motivation right there," said Mooseheads defenceman Steve Gillard. "We came out flying and took it to them."

The Mooseheads had blown six one-goal leads and one two-goal lead through the opening three games, which were all decided by one goal excluding empty-netters. So when they got a lead in Game 4, they made certain it stuck.

It didn't come without tense moments. Quebec sniper Mikhail Grigorenko scored just 2:46 into the

Game 5

Tickets for Friday's Game 5 go on sale on Thursday at 11 a.m. Visit ticketatlantic.com for details.

second and from there, many among the crowd of 7,878 were on the edge of their seats as the Remparts pushed for the equalizer.

With goalie Louis Domingue pulled for an extra attacker with 78 seconds to go, the Mooseheads survived the dying moments with heroic efforts from the likes of Travis Randell and Darcy Ashley, diving to clear pucks, and Cameron Critchlow and Brent Andrews, with clutch faceoff wins.

"The difference from the other games was, we had those little lapses from time to time and tonight we tightened up just a little bit more — just that little bit that we needed to — and it was a great game from defence on out," said Randell. "As a team, we definitely didn't feel like it was a 3-0 series. We're right back in it."

Remparts head coach Patrick Roy said his team wasn't as "competitive" and didn't have "as much jump" as it did in Tuesday's 4-3 win, but he also gave the Mooseheads credit.

"They played very well — that's exactly what I expected from them and that's exactly what they did," Roy said. "We certainly did not play well, especially in the first period."

"I think we weren't ready," added Remparts winger Gabriel Desjardins. "But we're going to make sure we're ready Friday, for sure."



Remparts forward Alexandre Comtois knocks the helmet off Mooseheads winger Darcy Ashley during a skirmish at the end of Halifax's 2-1 victory over Quebec at the Metro Centre on Wednesday night. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Sharks hand Abeltshauser NHL contract



Mooseheads defenceman Konrad Abeltshauser RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE

The San Jose Sharks have rewarded Konrad Abeltshauser's strong season with an NHL contract.

The 19-year-old Halifax Mooseheads defenceman agreed to terms on a three-year entry-level deal with the Sharks on Tuesday after recording a career-high eight goals and 36 assists for 44 points in 57 games, ninth among QMJHL blueliners.

A source told Metro Halifax the deal will pay Abeltshauser \$1.675 million over three seasons if he plays at the NHL level and \$187,500 over three seasons at the minor-league level. It con-

tains an additional \$225,000 in signing bonuses and performance bonuses for NHL games played.

Abeltshauser, who is from Bad Tolz, Germany, has spent three seasons with the Mooseheads and was named the team's top defenceman for the 2011-12 season last month.

Abeltshauser, who the Sharks drafted in the sixth round (163rd overall) in the 2010 NHL draft, will play next season for a spot with the Worcester Sharks, San Jose's American Hockey League affiliate.

The Mooseheads have two other NHL-drafted

Abeltshauser's points

96

Career points for Konrad Abeltshauser, ranking him eighth in franchise history among defencemen.

players up for contracts by June 1: Defenceman Sawyer Hannay and winger Alexandre Grenier, both with the Vancouver Canucks. Hannay was drafted in the seventh round (205th overall) in 2010 and Grenier in the third round (90th overall) last June.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO

4

SPORTS

QMJHL

Sea Dogs in semifinals after series sweep

Cole Harbour's Stephen MacAulay collected two assists on Wednesday night to help the Saint John Sea Dogs advance to the QMJHL semifinals. The Sea Dogs defeated the Baie-Comeau Drakkar 5-3 to improve to a perfect 8-0 in the post-season and sweep the best-of-seven quarter-final 4-0. Elsewhere, the host Chicoutimi Saguenéens edged the Shawinigan Cataractes 2-1 to even that quarter-final at two games apiece, while the Rimouski Oceanic beat the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada 4-3 in overtime to draw even in the other quarter-final.

On the web

For more coverage of the Halifax Mooseheads, follow @metroqfiles on Twitter or visit The Q Files blog at metronews.ca/qfiles.

On the web



There may have been some panicky moments around the country as the 2010 Olympic gold-medal hockey game went to overtime, but as Team Canada head coach Mike Babcock explains in his new book, "there was no way doubt was getting in the dressing room on that day." Scan the code for the story.

Boston Bruins

Horton likely to miss the playoffs

Bruins forward Nathan Horton is expected to miss the Stanley Cup playoffs because of a concussion.

Horton suffered the injury Jan. 22 in a game against the Philadelphia Flyers and has not played since.

The 26-year-old had three game-winning goals in last year's Stanley Cup run, but he missed the final four games of the championship series against Vancouver after suffering a concussion in Game 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago Blackhawks

Toews expected to play Game 1

Chicago captain Jonathan Toews is expected to play in the opening game of the Blackhawks' playoff series against the Phoenix Coyotes on Thursday. He missed the final 22 games of the regular season because of a concussion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jonathan Toews at practice on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Davis Cup

Canada to play South Africa

Milos Raonic likes Canada's chances against South Africa in a critical Davis Cup tennis playoff later this year. Raonic is expected to lead the Canadian team into the best-of-five tie. Canada must win in order to remain in the World Group for 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Former Moosehead Jakub Voracek scores the game-winning overtime goal past Marc-Andre Fleury in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference quarter-finals Wednesday in Pittsburgh. JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY IMAGES

Flyers flip the script on Penguins in overtime

NHL. Philadelphia recovers from 3-goal deficit to steal opener in Pittsburgh

Jakub Voracek beat Marc-Andre Fleury from in close 2:23 into overtime to give the Philadelphia Flyers a 4-3 comeback victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference quarter-final series.

Fleury stopped Matt Read's shot from the corner, but Voracek pounced on the rebound to cap a furious rally from a 3-0 deficit. Daniel Briere scored twice, and Brayden Schenn added a goal in his playoff debut.



Ilya Bryzgalov settled down after a shaky start to finish with 25 saves.

Sidney Crosby, Tyler Kennedy and Pascal Dupuis scored for the Penguins, and Fleury stopped 22 shots, but Pittsburgh struggled after dominating the first period.

The rivals delivered on their promise to play "whistle-to-whistle" and leave out the rough stuff that highlighted

By the numbers

20

Philadelphia won 20 games during the season when the opponent scored first, the most in the NHL.

their six regular-season meetings. The game featured only a handful of penalties and little of the typical animosity.

Crosby missed the playoffs last season while dealing with concussion-like symptoms, but the former MVP didn't take long making up for lost time. He gave Pittsburgh the lead on his second shift, shaking off a hit Philadelphia from defence-man Brayden Coburn in the corner then bouncing to his

feet and flipping a rebound over Bryzgalov's glove 3:43 into the first period.

Kennedy made it 2-0 just over four minutes later, his wrist shot from the left circle beating Bryzgalov over his stick.

Philadelphia coach Peter Laviolette called timeout, a manoeuvre he used successfully 10 days ago after the Flyers fell behind by two goals in the first five minutes in Pittsburgh. It worked April 1, as Philadelphia rallied for a 6-4 victory.

It worked again. Just not immediately.

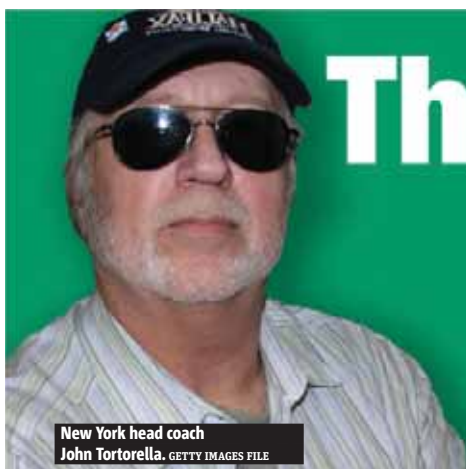
Dupuis would make it a 3-0 for Pittsburgh just 37 seconds before the first intermission, before Briere sparked Philadelphia with a goal at 6:22 of the second. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Predators beat Red Wings

- Gabriel Bourque scored two goals in his post-season debut, and the Nashville Predators held onto home-ice advantage by beating Detroit Red Wings 3-2 on Wednesday night to open their Western Conference playoff series.

- Paul Gaustad scored his first post-season goal, and Pekka Rinne made 35 saves.

- The Predators started at home after edging Detroit for the No. 4 seed. Game 2 goes Friday night in Nashville.



New York head coach John Tortorella. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Crossword

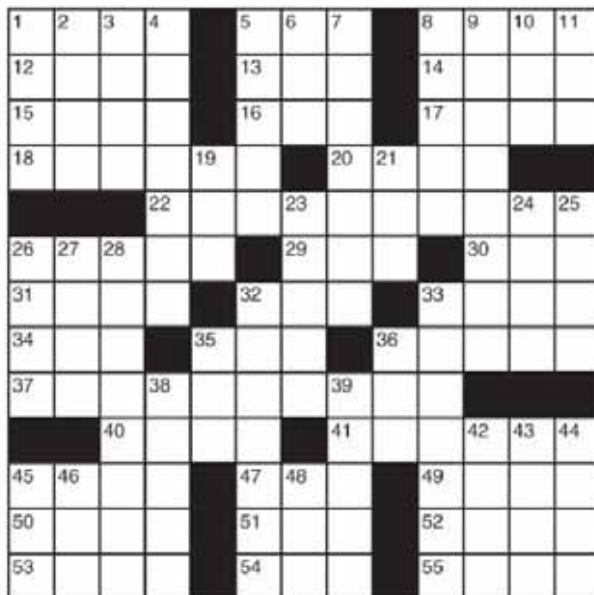
Across

- 1 Sitarist's rendition
5 Pouch
8 Sedimentary deposit
12 Beige
13 Swelled head
14 Freshly
15 Send forth
16 Lair
17 Start over
18 Man's hat style
20 Campus area
22 Etui's cousin?
26 Invigorating
29 Coop occupant
30 Street address?
31 Tramp's love
32 Pickle container
33 Actress Jessica
34 Whatever amount
35 Pitch
36 Skin
37 1959 Hudson/Day movie
40 Gentle soul
41 Subtlety
45 Raised platform
47 Make a choice
49 Gander
50 Into the sunrise
51 Digits (Abbr.)
52 Capri, e.g.
53 Crazy
54 Actor Ron

55 Geographical septet

Down

- 1 Coral structure
2 Pinnacle
3 Crossword diagram
4 Final exam?
5 Car style
6 Census statistic
7 Triumph over
8 Fergie, less familiarly
9 Like wax fruit
10 Started
11 Teeter-totter quorum
19 Sartorial problem
21 Sailors' org.
23 "USA Today" feature
24 Spheres
25 Ark skipper
26 Applaud
27 Hindu princess
28 Writer of pastoral pieces
32 Mandible
33 Acids' neutralizers
35 Pig stealer of rhyme
36 Winter ailment
38 Survives
39 Nervous
42 Winning margin, maybe



- 43 Pop flavor
44 — out a living
45 Society newbie
46 Motorists' grp.

48 Rep. or Dem.

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

QNCI H UESER PM YCUR
HSMEUSCG PI YPCQPIZ
MEBCRNPIZ. BPZNR EIC MHK
PRM CKCM HUC UPYCRG?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE ZOO, A BUNCH
OF WICKED ZEBRAS WERE UNASHAMEDLY
PLAYING A GAME OF STRIKE POKER.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals I

Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20.

Sometimes you are too nice and if you let someone off the hook today when they don't deserve it, you will regret it later.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21.

You need to be by yourself today and the only way you can do that is to put a barrier between you and negative people.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20.

This is a good time to approach people in positions of authority, especially if you need support.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22.

You can accomplish almost anything you want to, but you've got to look confident.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. What you want more than anything today is financial stability. How can you make your talents pay?

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. If a loved one makes a silly mistake today don't make a big issue of it.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22.

With mind planet Mercury at odds with Saturn in your sign, you could easily fall into the trap of thinking that something is important when it really doesn't matter at all.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21.

Give as much of yourself as you can today. Be generous to those you love and to those whose words and activities rub you the wrong way.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21.

This is a good time to deal with issues on the home front.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan. 20.

If you have done something wrong, now is the time to apologize. The planets will help you to find just the right words.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb. 18.

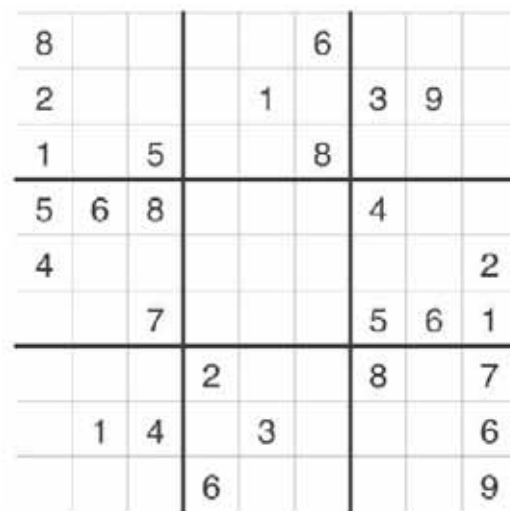
There is no such thing as something for nothing — ever. Keep that simple truth in front of you today and you won't go far wrong.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20.

Do what you can to help someone in need today but keep your distance emotionally.

SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	6	4	9	5	3	0	7
7	8	4	1	3	2	5	9	6
9	3	5	7	8	6	2	4	1
2	6	7	9	4	1	8	5	3
3	4	9	5	7	8	1	6	2
8	5	1	2	6	3	4	7	9
4	1	2	6	5	7	9	3	8
6	9	3	8	1	4	7	2	5
5	7	8	3	2	9	6	1	4



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today

9°/1°
Showers

Friday

6°/0°
Rain and snow
60%

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WONG MAYE-E/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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